

*a1*  
*cont*  
component accepts the message blocking request based on an evaluation of the communication system.

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*a2*  
3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending a message blocking command to the third network component.

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*a3*  
9. (Amended) A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps of:

sending a message blocking request from a first mobile switching center (MSC) to a system control function component (SCF), the message blocking request identifying a second MSC; and

preventing messages from being communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

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*a4*  
11. (Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sending a message blocking command to the second MSC.

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*a5*  
15. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to be taken by the second MSC instead of communicating a message from the second MSC to the first MSC.

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